Post- Registration Dynamics of Geographical Indications in India: A Legal and Socio-Economic Analysis with Reference to the State of Uttarakhand

A

SYNOPSIS

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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.)

IN

Law

BY

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2025

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Candidate's Declaration

I, **Aditya Kumar Tomar**, declare that the synopsis entitled, "**Post- Registration Dynamics of Geographical Indications in India: A Legal and Socio-Economic Analysis with Reference to the State of Uttarakhand**" being submitted in the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Law under ICFAI Law School, The ICFAI University, Dehradun during the academic year 2024-25.

It is the work that is expected to carried out under the supervision of Dr. Razit Sharma & Dr. Ram Karan Singh. It is further declared that the synopsis is within the plagiarism limit and copy of the same is attached as per the University norms.

05 Dec, 2025

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CERTIFICATE

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Signature of the Supervisor
Dr. Razit Sharma
Assistant Professor

Signature of the Co-Supervisor
Dr. Ram Karan Singh
Professor

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Certificate of Plagiarism Check for Synopsis

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ABSTRACT

Geographical indications are a legal mechanism for safeguarding the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge base of different regions. In a country as diverse as India, GIs plays an important role for the protection of intellectual property but also help in rural development and in the upliftment of socio-economic conditions. Uttarakhand is rich in biodiversity, traditional handicrafts, indigenous agricultural systems, and has a number of unique GIs registered under the GI Act. Nonetheless, the true value of GI registration is often undermined by insufficient enforcement policies as well as gaps in stakeholder education concerning value appropriation, restricted access to markets, and lack of institutional support after the registration phase is complete.

The Uttarakhand region has been selected for this research as a case study to integrate all the elements of socio-geo-economics since it offers a range of problems associated with realized and unrealized economic opportunities resulting from traditional GI post-registration activities. The aim of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of GI protection with regard to its actual socio-economic impact in undermining cultural and social factors for GI's socio-economic identity preservation and sustainable development. The research intends to carry out some empirical fieldwork in the selected regions that have already been recognized by the GI and interact with the relevant stakeholders like producers, cooperatives, government, NGOs, etc., and find out the loopholes in the policies, so that there can be some relevant suggestions to improve the overall GI framework.

This research seeks to aim at contributing to the conversation on the protection of culture through intellectual property law by formulating policies to improve the use of Geographic indications (GIs) for the empyreal empowerment, heritage sustenance, and balanced growth of the economy in the Himalayan area.

The study will fill the gaps in the existing research on tailored GIs by integrating law, economics, and culture into one approach. Thus, it will recommend strategic changes concerning the efficacy and integration of social issues towards the protection of GIs to ensure that development of cultural heritage is amicable with local sustenance within the Indian system of GIs.

Keywords: *Geographical Indication, Post Registration, Socio-Economic, Sustainable*

1. Introduction

Geographical Indications (GIs) are essential for safeguarding the distinctive features of products associated with a given location[1]. They add on especially to the protection of a cultural heritage, and of local economy growth, and a sustainable development process. There may be, however, few challenges and a post-registration dynamic in a contemporary time that may influence the strength. There are many underdeveloped communities which point out the socio-economic challenges that will add on a hurdle in gaining the benefits GIs[2].

The Intellectual property rights plays an important role in the economic and social life of the people living in the society. The licensed revolution which may include the product or the expression of the mind and the inner self. The IP laws focuses on protecting the creation of the creators by giving them specific duration of rights in order to manage the monetary gains from those items. The importance of intellectual property was first realized in the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883) and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1886)[3]. Both the conventions are regulated or operated by the international body i.e. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). IPR can be bifurcated into two sects that can be mentioned as industrial property rights and the copyright, it depends on the basis of the case of understanding and type of its usage. Industrial Property consists of the patent that deals with the inventions, trademarks, industrial designs and the geographical indications[4].In this way, intellectual property infrastructure tries to find a balance between the needs of innovators and the public interest, creating a space where creativity and innovation can thrive, which is good for everyone. In the present dynamic and changing economy, the Geographical Indications emerged as one of the major and crucial

[1] World Intellectual Property Organization. (n.d.). *What is a geographical indication?* (Visited on: 15 Jan, 2025).

[2] Giovannucci, D., Josling, T., Kerr, W., O'Connor, B., & Yeung, M. T. (2009). *Guide to geographical indications: Linking products and their origins*. International Trade Centre. (Visited on: 15 Jan, 2025).

[3] World Intellectual Property Organization. (n.d.). *Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883); Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1886)*. (Visited on: 17 Jan, 2025).

[4] Cornish, W. & Llewelyn, D. (2013). Intellectual Property: Patents, Copyright, Trade Marks and Allied Rights. Sweet & Maxwell. (Visited on: 17 Jan, 2025).

intellectual property right[5]. Geographical Indications are presently seen and interpreted and examined as the same amount of scholarly source which is supplementary to a range of various products. Every general public develops a particular information base during the course of a long period of time. Development of such information base is credited to its source in the geological environment and mankind associations and becomes an integral part of their economy and tradition. GI is positioned in such a manner that it assists the producers to distinguish their products from competitors in the market and for them to create an image as well as freehand around their products which would give them the higher value than the expected value of the product. The concept of the geographical indication can be traced back to the 19th century in the Europe and has been refined and evolved during the years. The current international regime is underpinned in the Article 22[6] Agreement which requires member nations to secure equitable protection, with the obligation being on members to offers an appropriate means for the investing parties to protect and conserve their GIs. Geographical indication - means that certain products or goods originates from a particular country, region or place and have a special or unique quality, properties or reputation which is essentially attributable to the area in which they were originated or found. The association becomes so automatic that the mention of locality will suggest already what is made or produced there and vice versa. For example, if we take the example of the Champagne, it is found that this particular wine i.e. 'Champagne' is being produced and made there[7] in that particular area or in that particular geographical location.

There can be no denying on the concept that India is a country which stands on a treasure, so far as rich on customary resources of farm products and other high valuable goods are concerned. People in Rural India from Various Districts and places of the country got a great talent and skill to produce the good Quantitative products which may include like- Handiworks, ornaments jewellery materials etc., and they are doing the above mentioned with their skill since various generation

[5] World Intellectual Property Organization. (n.d.). *Types of intellectual property*. https://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/(Visited on: 17 Jan, 2025).
[6] World Trade Organization. (1994). *Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)*, Article 22. (Visited on: 18 Jan, 2025).
[7] Gangjee, D. (2012). *Relocating the law of geographical indications*. Cambridge University Press. (Visited on: 18 Jan, 2025).

and ages[8]. These things are often linked with the customs, practices and culture of that particular region in the specific geographical location of the country, geographical indications are so intensively linked to the lives of the people which use traditional strategies, practices and skills to provide these goods or products related to the particular land area. Being India a signatory to the TRIPS agreement, it is the responsibility to protect GI in India. Consequently, India passed sui-generis law known as Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. The primary aims of the Act are to safeguard the interest of the producers of such goods. The other object is to restrain unauthorized use of GI and to safeguard consumers from fraud and also to market the goods with GI in the export market. To recognize and determine the issues and problems concerning the goals of the GI stated, the researcher has conducted this research.

2. Research Problem

The post-registration outcomes in the state of Uttarakhand are less explored and remain largely ineffective despite the legal recognition and potential of Geographical Indications (GIs) as tools to protect traditional knowledge, preserve cultural heritage, and promote rural economic growth. For local manufacturers and craftspeople, the state's numerous registered GI goods have not resulted in significant socio-economic benefits. Weak institutional frameworks, limited market access, stakeholder ignorance, and inefficient rights enforcement are some of the obstacles that still stand in the way of accomplishing the intended goals of GI protection.

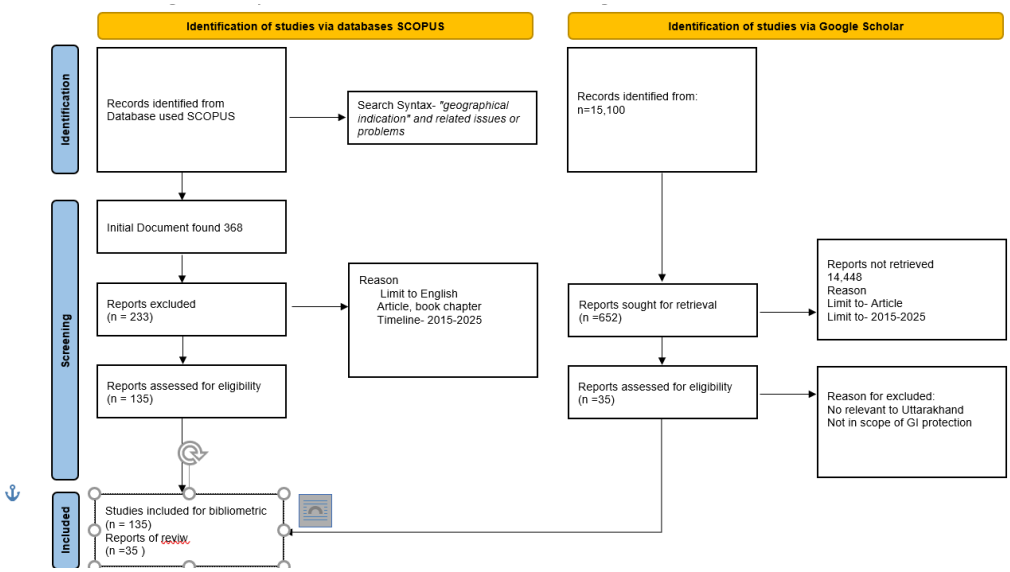
Additionally, marginalized and tribal communities, which are the guardians of this heritage in many instances, are excluded from the benefits of GI-based development due to entrenched socio-economic disparities. The research here attempts to critically examine the post-registration practices and their real-world implications in Uttarakhand, with an objective to find gaps between policy and practice and recommend policies for a more inclusive and sustainable GI regime.

3. Literature Review

[8] Das, K. (2009). *Socioeconomic implications of protecting geographical indications in India*. Centre for WTO Studies. (Visited on: 18 Jan, 2025).

The literature review for this research is structured into two distinct phases. The first phase employed a bibliometric methodology to gain an overview of the research landscape surrounding Geographical Indications (GIs). For this analysis, the Scopus scientific database was utilized, with the search query including terms such as "geographical indication" and related issues or problems. An initial total of 368 documents was identified. After applying relevant filters, 135 documents were selected for detailed analysis.

The bibliometric analysis of the data has been conducted using the R software biblio shiny package the analysis off the data are the following


Identification of studies via databases SCOPUS
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Identification
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Records identified from: n=15,100
Screening
Initial Document found 368
Reports excluded (n = 233)
Reason
Limit to English
Article, book chapter
Timeline- 2015-2025
Reports sought for retrieval (n =652)
Reports not retrieved 14,448
Reason
Limit to- Article
Limit to- 2015-2025
Reports assessed for eligibility (n = 135)
Reports assessed for eligibility (n =35)
Reason for excluded:
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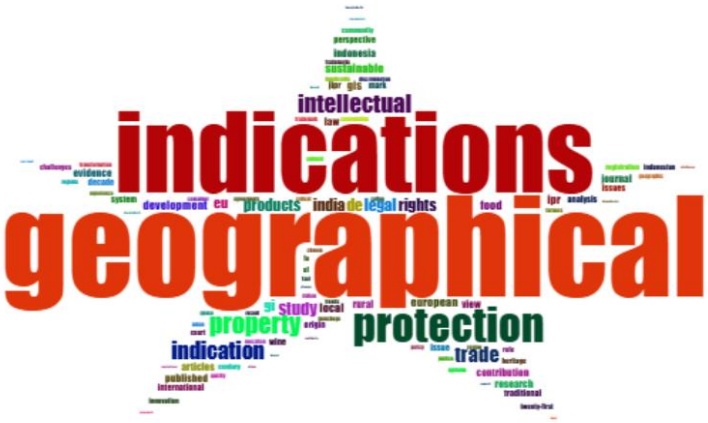
Not in scope of GI protection
Included
Studies included for bibliometric (n = 135)
Reports of review (n =35)

Phase I

Bibliometric analysis finding



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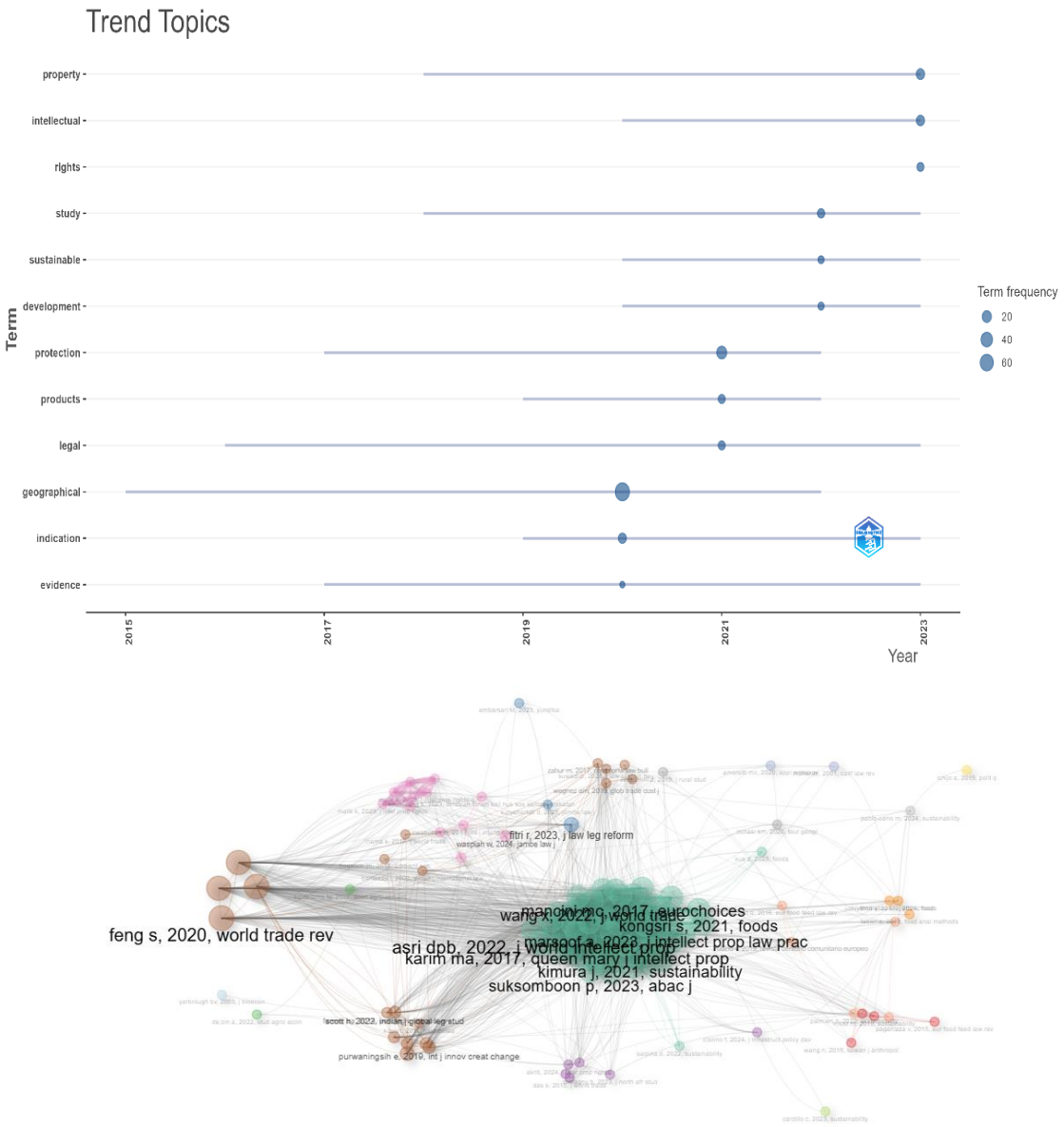
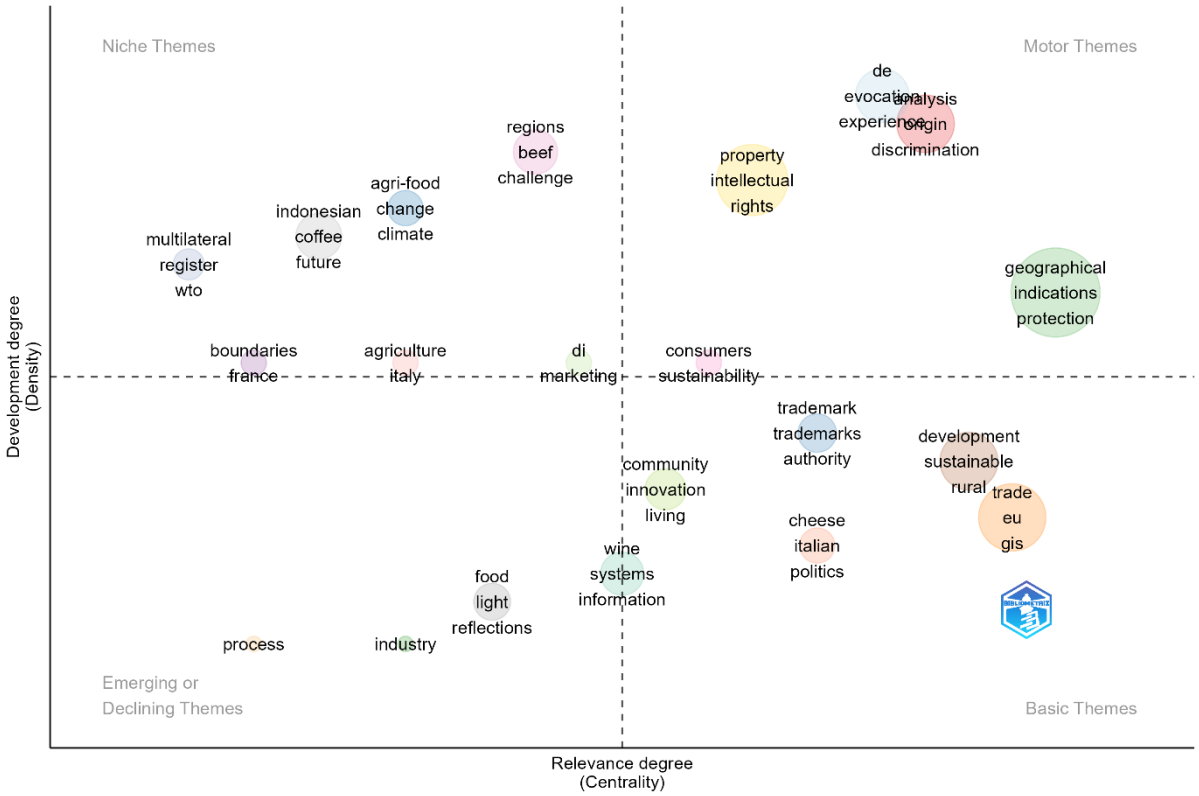


Cluster by coupling of documents searched in Title



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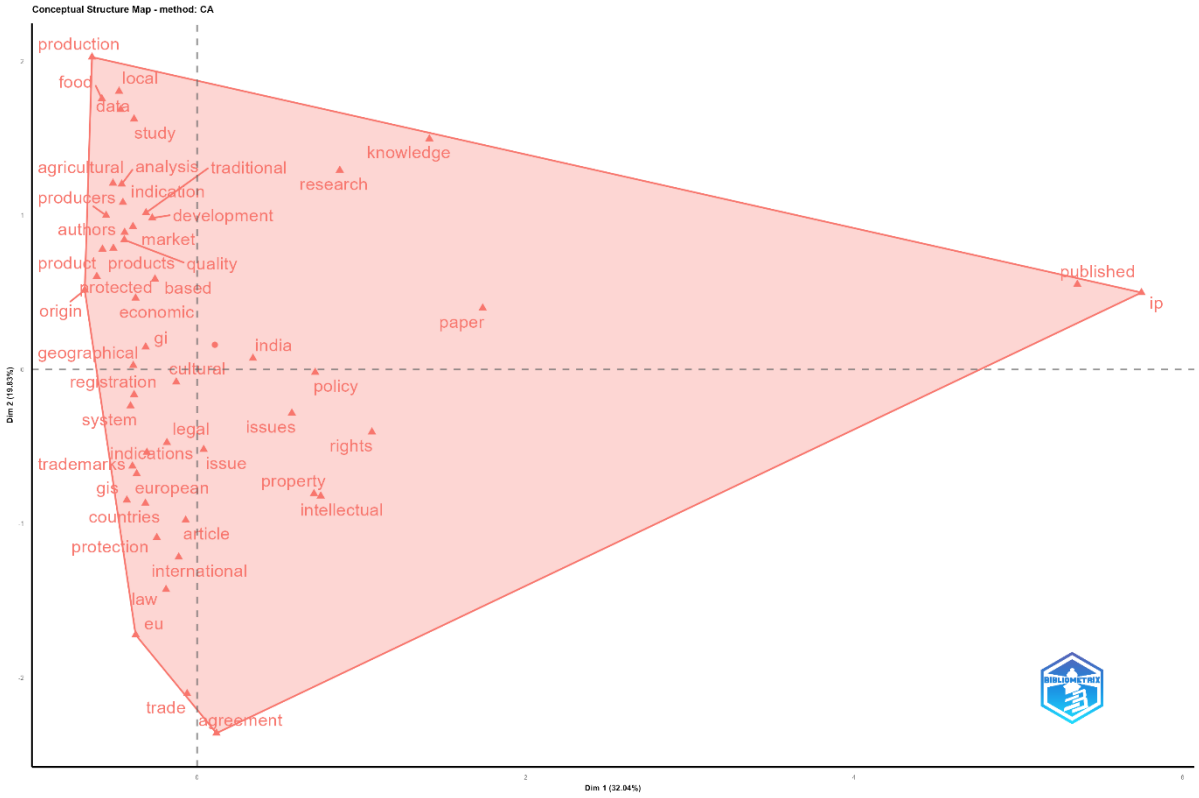
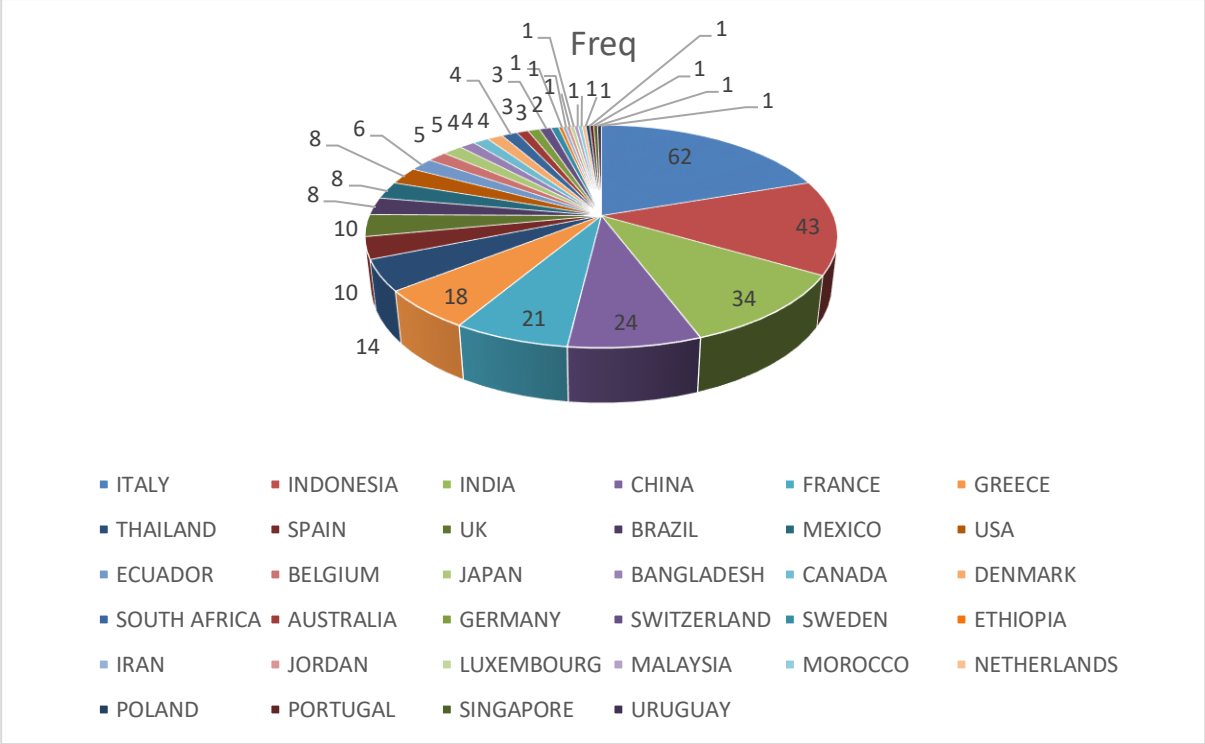


Factorial analysis



Country	Freq
ITALY	62
INDONESIA	43
INDIA	34
CHINA	24
FRANCE	21
GREECE	18
THAILAND	14
SPAIN	10
UK	10
BRAZIL	8
MEXICO	8
USA	8
ECUADOR	6
BELGIUM	5
JAPAN	5
BANGLADESH	4
CANADA	4
DENMARK	4
SOUTH AFRICA	4
AUSTRALIA	3
GERMANY	3
SWITZERLAND	3
SWEDEN	2
ETHIOPIA	1
IRAN	1
JORDAN	1

LUXEMBOURG	1
MALAYSIA	1
MOROCCO	1
NETHERLANDS	1
POLAND	1
PORTUGAL	1
SINGAPORE	1
URUGUAY	1

Paper	DOI	Total Citations	TC per Year	Normalized TC
BÉRARD L, 2006, INT SOC SCI J	10.1111/j.1468-2451.2006.00592.x	120	6.00	1.00
BELLETTI G, 2015, LAND USE POLICY	10.1016/j.landusepol.2015.05.003	110	10.00	3.79
BRAMLEY C, 2007, AGREKON	10.1080/03031853.2007.9523761	64	3.37	1.66
MARIE-VIVIEN D, 2017, WORLD DEV	10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.04.035	63	7.00	4.34
KIZOS T, 2011, FOOD POLICY	10.1016/j.foodpol.2011.06.005	53	3.53	2.27
ARFINI F, 2019, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su11010272	41	5.86	3.80
ENGELHARDT T, 2015, IIC INT REV INTELLECT PROP COMPET LAW	10.1007/s40319-015-0391-3	38	3.45	1.31
HUYSMANS M, 2022, REV INT POLIT ECON	10.1080/09692290.2020.1844272	36	9.00	6.84
ZHAO X, 2014, J RURAL STUD	10.1016/j.jrurstud.2014.06.012	36	3.00	3.00
ILBERT H, 2009, DEV POLICY REV	10.1111/j.1467-7679.2009.00457.x	32	1.88	2.84
MARETTE S, 2008, AGRIBUSINESS	10.1002/agr.20173	26	1.44	1.33
VERGAMINI D, 2019, J RURAL STUD	10.1016/j.jrurstud.2019.10.006	25	3.57	2.32
MAHER M, 2001, CALIF LAW REV	10.2307/3481251	24	0.96	1.37
LÓPEZ-BAYÓN S, 2020, AGRIBUSINESS	10.1002/agr.21665	22	3.67	2.68
HOANG G, 2020, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su12114711	21	3.50	2.55
BASOLE A, 2015, J WORLD INTELLECT PROP	10.1111/jwip.12035	21	1.91	0.72
LANDI C, 2015, AGRIBUSINESS	10.1002/agr.21412	21	1.91	0.72
KONGSRI S, 2021, FOODS	10.3390/foods10102349	20	4.00	3.48
UCHIYAMA Y, 2017, J ETHNIC FOOD	10.1016/j.jef.2017.05.003	18	2.00	1.24
STRANIERI S, 2023, FOOD POLICY	10.1016/j.foodpol.2023.102425	16	5.33	3.82
VINAYAN S, 2017, J WORLD INTELLECT PROP	10.1111/jwip.12076	16	1.78	1.10

CARDILLO C, 2023, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su151411403	14	4.67	3.34
TANSEY G, 2002, SOC POLICY ADM	10.1111/1467-9515.00305	14	0.58	1.00
MIR FA, 2010, J INTEL PROP RIGHTS		14	0.88	1.00
ROUSSEL B, 2007, AFRICA	10.3366/afr.2007.77.1.130	13	0.68	0.34
DAS K, 2008, J WORLD TRADE	10.54648/trad2008021	13	0.72	0.67
KIREEVA I, 2011, WORLD PAT INF	10.1016/j.wpi.2010.08.001	13	0.87	0.56
KIMURA J, 2021, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su13020961	12	2.40	2.09
COVARRUBIA P, 2019, IIC INT REV INTELLECT PROP COMPET LAW	10.1007/s40319-019-00810-3	11	1.57	1.02
CRAVEN E, 2001, AREA	10.1111/1475-4762.00034	11	0.44	0.63
NWABUEZE CJ, 2013, INT J INTANG HERIT		11	0.85	1.57
PICK B, 2021, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su13095056	10	2.00	1.74
MILLET M, 2019, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su11174520	10	1.43	0.93
VIJU C, 2013, J INT ECON LAW	10.1093/jiel/jgt012	10	0.77	1.43
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WANG X, 2018, QUEEN MARY J INTELLECT PROP	10.4337/qmjip.2018.02.01	8	1.00	1.78
BORGHINI A, 2023, WORLD DEV SUSTAIN	10.1016/j.wds.2023.100043	8	2.67	1.91
WATTANAPRUTTIPAISAN T, 2009, ASIAN DEV REV	10.1142/s0116110509500061	8	0.47	0.71
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SHAFI M, 2022, J WORLD INTELLECT PROP	10.1111/jwip.12211	7	1.75	1.33
KARIM MA, 2017, QUEEN MARY J INTELLECT PROP	10.4337/qmjip.2017.01.03	7	0.78	0.48
FABERI A, 2018, FOOD ANAL METHODS	10.1007/s12161-017-1110-0	7	0.88	1.56
PALMIERI N, 2022, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su14137741	7	1.75	1.33
SUWADI P, 2023, J LAW SUSTAIN DEV	10.55908/sdgs.v11i2.322	6	2.00	1.43
GIRARD S, 2022, MAR POLICY	10.1016/j.marpol.2021.104845	6	1.50	1.14
LOU B, 2023, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su15118870	6	2.00	1.43
FROEHLICH JM, 2017, AMBIENT SOC	10.1590/1809-4422ASOC20150031R1V2012017	6	0.67	0.41

LI C, 2023, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su151914428	6	2.00	1.43
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SONG X, 2022, WORLD TRADE REV	10.1017/S1474745622000258	6	1.50	1.14
CHARLIER C, 2012, EUR J LAW ECON	10.1007/s10657-012-9333-4	6	0.43	1.00
AGGARWAL R, 2014, INT J LAW MANAGE	10.1108/IJLMA-08-2012-0029	6	0.50	0.50
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ROMAGNY B, 2023, J NORTH AFR STUD	10.1080/13629387.2021.2020480	5	1.67	1.19
SALPINA D, 2022, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su141811482	5	1.25	0.95
MALIK K, 2023, J INTEL PROP RIGHTS-a	10.56042/jipr.v28i1.538	5	1.67	1.19
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MEDEIROS MDL, 2022, J WORLD INTELLECT PROP	10.1111/jwip.12208	5	1.25	0.95
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SOAM SK, 2011, J INTEL PROP RIGHTS		4	0.27	0.17
FARMER EA, 2014, POLIT LEG ANTHROPOL REV	10.1111/plar.12054	4	0.33	0.33
BANTEKAS I, 2009, LEIDEN J INTERNATIONAL LAW	10.1017/S0922156509990094	4	0.24	0.36
KARIM MA, 2016, QUEEN MARY J INTELLECT PROP	10.4337/qmjip.2016.01.04	3	0.30	1.67
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ALKHASAWNEH AA, 2016, J INTEL PROP RIGHTS		3	0.30	1.67

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REYES-CHÁVEZ PP, 2021, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su13126701	1	0.20	0.17
DE PIN A, 2022, STUD AGRIC ECON	10.7896/j.2261	1	0.25	0.19
GOGOI J, 2024, J INTEL PROP RIGHTS	10.56042/JIPR.V29I6.7046	1	0.50	1.67
INAMA S, 2017, J WORLD TRADE	10.54648/trad2017019	1	0.11	0.07
CALABRESE B, 2024, IIC INT REV INTELLECT PROP COMPET LAW	10.1007/s40319-024-01443-x	1	0.50	1.67
NOERHADI CC, 2022, INT J CYBER CRIMINOL	10.5281/zenodo.4766558	1	0.25	0.19
WEGNEZ AM, 2019, GLOB TRADE CUST J	10.54648/gtcj2019052	1	0.14	0.09
WANG X, 2022, J WORLD TRADE	10.54648/trad2022034	1	0.25	0.19

DISEMADI HS, 2023, J HUK NOV	10.26555/novelty.v14i2.a27282	1	0.33	0.24
AKRITI, 2024, J INTEL PROP RIGHTS	10.56042/jipr.v29i5.3663	1	0.50	1.67
MARSOOF A, 2023, J INTELLECT PROP LAW PRAC	10.1093/jiplp/jpad091	1	0.33	0.24
ABEGG B, 2018, IIC INT REV INTELLECT PROP COMPET LAW	10.1007/s40319-018-0694-2	1	0.13	0.22
BERTOLI G, 2009, ERA FORUM	10.1007/s12027-008-0095-y	1	0.06	0.09
VOLPATO A, 2016, EUR FOOD FEED LAW REV		1	0.10	0.56
DAS K, 2015, J WORLD TRADE		1	0.09	0.03
SUKSOMBOON P, 2023, ABAC J	10.59865/abacj.2023.65	0	0.00	0.00
WATSON DJ, 2024, J WORLD TRADE	10.54648/trad2024042	0	0.00	0.00
BLANK KG, 2021, INT TRADE LAW REGUL		0	0.00	0.00
VELLI F, 2022, EUROPEAN PAP J LAW INTEGR	10.15166/2499-8249/627	0	0.00	0.00
PATEL RM, 2021, LIBR PHILOS PRACT		0	0.00	0.00
CHAKRABARTI G, 2021, QUEEN MARY J INTELLECT PROP	10.4337/qmjip.2021.01.05	0	0.00	0.00
MANGKHANG C, 2023, J CURRIC TEACH	10.5430/jct.v12n1p137	0	0.00	0.00
MAZARAKIOTI EC, 2024, FOODS	10.3390/foods13183015	0	0.00	0.00
PABLO-CANO M, 2024, SUSTAINABILITY	10.3390/su16198633	0	0.00	0.00
RUSCONI G, 2022, EUR FOOD FEED LAW REV		0	0.00	0.00
CEI L, 2025, EUR PLANN STUD	10.1080/09654313.2024.2438039	0	0.00	
ZAHUR M, 2017, COMMONW LAW BULL	10.1080/03050718.2017.1418403	0	0.00	0.00
SCOTT H, 2022, INDIAN J GLOBAL LEG STUD		0	0.00	0.00
MOIR HVJ, 2023, J WORLD TRADE	10.54648/trad2023040	0	0.00	0.00
BALIGA V, 2024, AGRIS ON-LINE PAP ECON INF	10.7160/aol.2024.160201	0	0.00	0.00
PETTENATI G, 2025, GEOFORUM	10.1016/j.geoforum.2025.104210	0	0.00	
WASPIAH W, 2024, JAMBE LAW J	10.22437/home.v7i2.443	0	0.00	0.00
REZAEI A, 2024, QUEEN MARY J INTELLECT PROP	10.4337/qmjip.2024.02.04	0	0.00	0.00
ZELECHOWSKI L, 2020, GRUR INT	10.1093/grurint/ikz0	0	0.00	0.00

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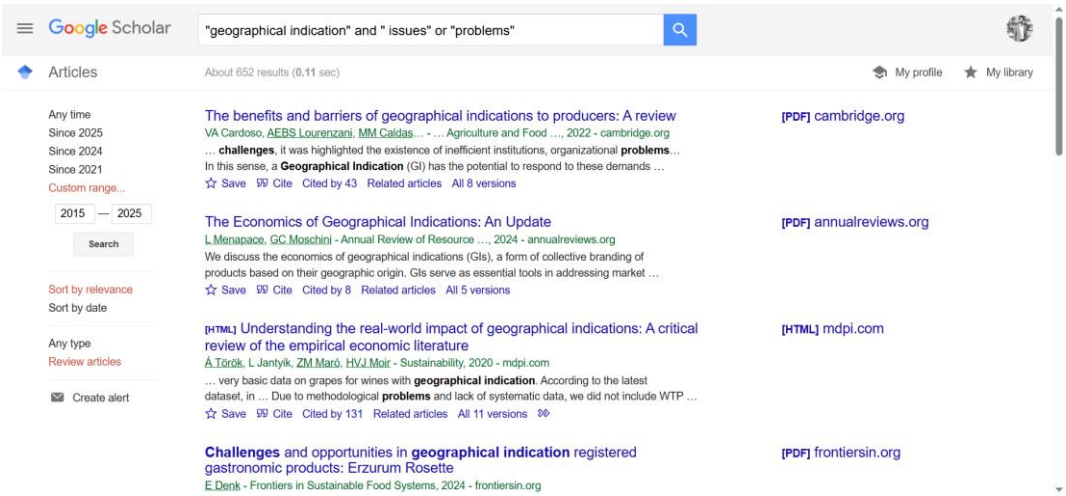
RAZA A, 2025, J INTEL PROP RIGHTS	10.56042/jipr.v30i2.14975	0	0.00	
ASTRIANI N, 2024, EUR FOOD FEED LAW REV		0	0.00	0.00
RUBINO V, 2019, REVISTA DERECHO COMUNITARIO EUROPEO	10.18042/cepc/rdce.64.06	0	0.00	0.00
WANG N, 2019, TAIWAN J ANTHROPOL		0	0.00	0.00
YUAN J, 2024, J DIGITAL LANDSC ARCH	10.14627/537752004	0	0.00	0.00
CISILINO F, 2024, J INFRASTRUCT POLICY DEV	10.24294/jipd.v8i8.5286	0	0.00	0.00
HONG NB, 2025, DISCOV SUSTAIN	10.1007/s43621-025-01147-3	0	0.00	
ANJOS D, 2013, AGROALIMENTARIA		0	0.00	0.00
SIDALI KL, 2016, ECON AGRO-ALIMENT	10.3280/ecag2016-001003	0	0.00	0.00

SECOND PHASE OF LITERATURE REVIEW

Analysis is done by Google Scholar under which various articles was analyzed and the data is shown below: -


Google Scholar
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The benefits and barriers of geographical indications to producers: A review
VA Cardoso, AEBS Lourenzani, MM Caldas... - ... Agriculture and Food ..., 2022 - cambridge.org
... challenges, it was highlighted the existence of inefficient institutions, organizational problems...
In this sense, a Geographical Indication (GI) has the potential to respond to these demands ...
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[PDF] cambridge.org
The Economics of Geographical Indications: An Update
L Menapace, GC Moschini - Annual Review of Resource ..., 2024 - annualreviews.org
We discuss the economics of geographical indications (GIs), a form of collective branding of products based on their geographic origin. GIs serve as essential tools in addressing market ...
Save Cite Cited by 8 Related articles All 5 versions
[PDF] annualreviews.org
[HTML] Understanding the real-world impact of geographical indications: A critical review of the empirical economic literature
Á Török, L Jantyik, ZM Maró, HVJ Moir - Sustainability, 2020 - mdpi.com
... very basic data on grapes for wines with geographical indication. According to the latest dataset, in ... Due to methodological problems and lack of systematic data, we did not include WTP ...
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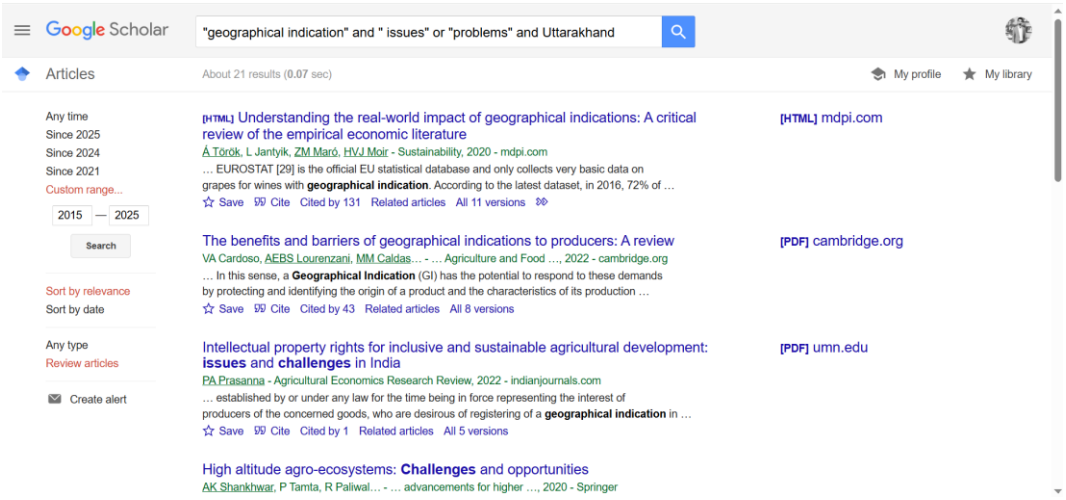
Challenges and opportunities in geographical indication registered gastronomic products: Erzurum Rosette
E Denk - Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems, 2024 - frontiersin.org
[PDF] frontiersin.org

Initial result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[HTML] Understanding the real-world impact of geographical indications: A critical review of the empirical economic literature
Á Török, L Jantyik, ZM Maró, HVJ Moir - Sustainability, 2020 - mdpi.com
… EUROSTAT [29] is the official EU statistical database and only collects very basic data on grapes for wines with geographical indication. According to the latest dataset, in 2016, 72% of …
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The benefits and barriers of geographical indications to producers: A review
VA Cardoso, AEBS Lourenzani, MM Caldas… - … Agriculture and Food …, 2022 - cambridge.org
… In this sense, a Geographical Indication (GI) has the potential to respond to these demands by protecting and identifying the origin of a product and the characteristics of its production …
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[PDF] cambridge.org
Intellectual property rights for inclusive and sustainable agricultural development: issues and challenges in India
PA Prasanna - Agricultural Economics Research Review, 2022 - indianjournals.com
… established by or under any law for the time being in force representing the interest of producers of the concerned goods, who are desirous of registering of a geographical indication in …
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[PDF] umn.edu
High altitude agro-ecosystems: Challenges and opportunities
AK Shankhwar, P Tamta, R Paliwal… - … advancements for higher …, 2020 - Springer

Final result

1. Commercialization of Indigenous Health Drinks as Geographical Indications[9]

It focuses on the GI registration and the business strategy with the sustainable rural livelihood development and one of the most important issues to be addressed is the benefit sharing with GI holders and to raise their socio-economic condition.

Research Gaps

Despite the promising insights from the existing literature, several knowledge gaps remain. No work on evaluating the long-term impacts of GI registration on local economies and social structures. Additionally, the interplay between traditional knowledge and modern business practices in GI management requires further exploration. More empirical research is needed to understand the effects of GIs on rural livelihoods in different socio-economic contexts within Uttarakhand.

[9] S. Soam & M. Hussain, *Commercialization of Indigenous Health Drinks as Geographical Indications*, 16 Journal of Intellectual Property Rights. 183 (2011). (Visited on: 22 Jan, 2025).

2. Geographical Indications and Farmers' Welfare - The Role of State in Strengthening Governance[10]

Geographical Indications (GIs) serve as a vital instrument for protecting local products and enhancing the welfare of farmers by leveraging unique regional characteristics. The relationship between GIs and farmers' welfare is profoundly influenced by state involvement and governance structures, which can either empower or constrain smallholder farmers. This literature review synthesizes existing research findings on the role of the state in promoting GIs and the implications for farmers' welfare, while identifying knowledge gaps and suggesting future research directions.

Research Gaps

Despite the valuable insights gained from existing research, significant knowledge gaps remain. First, there is a need for empirical studies that assess the long-term impacts of GIs on farmers' welfare in diverse geographical contexts. More case studies are required to understand the nuances of state involvement and its effects on local economies.

Second, the intersection of GIs with climate change and environmental sustainability presents an area ripe for exploration. local climate changes alter land use patterns, which may, in turn, affect the viability of GIs. research should investigate how states can adapt governance frameworks to mitigate these challenges and support farmers in maintaining sustainable practices. Lastly, there is a pressing need to explore the role of technology and innovation in enhancing the governance of GIs. The potential of digital platforms to facilitate market access for smallholder farmers and streamline the GI registration process remains under-researched.

3. Embedding Local places in Global Spaces: Geographical Indications as a Territorial Development Strategy[11]

[10] N. Lalitha & S. Vinayan, *Geographical Indications and Farmers' Welfare: Role of State in Strengthening Governance* (Springer 2018). (Visited on: 22 Jan, 2025).
[11] Sarah Bowen, *Embedding Local Places in Global Spaces: Geographical Indications as a Territorial Development Strategy*, 75 Rural Society 209 (2015), (visited on: Jan. 24, 2025).

Geographical indications (GIs) are place-based names that convey the geographical origin and cultural identity of agricultural products. They ensure control over production and sales stays within local areas while using extra-local markets. The degree to which GI protection spurs development and protects local resources depends on the structure of GI legislation and the territorial context. State participation is an important factor which will help and strengthen the small scale farmers to be successful and produce in a sustainable manner.

Research Gaps

Despite these important contributions of the literature to understand the GIs as a territorial development policy, but there are still some gaps in knowledge. More detailed case studies are required to assess the long-term effects of GIs on local economies and societies. Studies that follow such changes over the time could provide the useful clues and input for the study.

GI brand and marketing due to digitalization is under-research. Also, there is a unique opportunity to study the intersectionality of GIs with social topics like the gender equity in the agriculture or the representation of minority groups. Subsequent research might be helpful in exploring the extent to which GIs can be inclusive and supportive of a range of local narratives.

4. Quality linked to geographical origin and geographical indications: Lessons learned from six case studies in Asia[12]

The relationship between product quality, geographical origin, and the use of geographical indications (GIs) has garnered increasing attention in recent years, particularly in the context of agricultural products. This literature review investigates the lessons learned from six case studies in Asia, focusing on the impact of GIs on product quality and market dynamics. The findings highlight the importance of geographical indications in enhancing the value of products and the associated challenges and opportunities for farmers and producers.

[12] A. Lecoent, É. Vandecandelaere & J.J. Cadilhon, *Quality Linked to Geographical Origin and Geographical Indications: Lessons Learned from Six Case Studies in Asia* (2010) (visited on: Jan. 24, 2025).

Geographical Indications and Market Premiums

Geographical indications plays an important role in establishing a premium for products associated with a specific regions. There are regions where products are closely associated to their geographical origin, and the consumers are often willing to pay the amount than the usual amount on the GI products, which will help the economic value of local producers.

Research Gaps

Research has hightlighted on the direct economic benefits of GIs; but there is a lack of research on the long-term sustainability of GI practices and its effects on environmental conservation. Further the research is needed to consider the environmental effects of GI-related production techniques and the importance of consumer education in valuing this type of product.

5. Geographies of Origin and Proximity: Approaches to Local Agro-Food Systems[13]

Local agro-food systems have gained prominence as a response to globalization and industrialized food production. The concept emphasizes geographical proximity between food producers and consumers, aiming to foster sustainable practices, enhance local economies, and improve food security. This literature review synthesizes recent research findings regarding local food systems, their socio-economic implications, and the geographical dynamics that shape them.

Characteristics of Local Food Systems

Local food systems are primarily defined by the direct relationships established between producers and consumers, minimizing intermediaries in the supply chain. Kneafsey et al. (2013) highlight that these systems prioritize local sales, which can enhance community engagement and support local economies.

[13] J.S. Cañada & J. Muchnik, *Geographies of Origin and Proximity: Approaches to Local Agro-Food Systems*, 5 Culture & History Digital Journal, 002 (2016) (Visited on: Jan. 24, 2025).

Research Gaps

There is a clear gap can be found on the food system and the economic growth of the product is underexplored. There is also insufficient knowledge on how the marginalized and targeted people should have a secure system framework on food insecurity.

Furthermore, future research should explore the role of technology in enhancing local food systems. For instance, the application of advanced technologies, such as blockchain, could provide critical insights into food traceability and consumer trust. Moreover, studies should investigate how the local food systems can adapt to changing climate conditions and contribute to resilience in food production.

Lastly, while the concept of proximity is central to local food systems, the implications of geographic disparities on food access warrant further exploration. Understanding how different communities experience and navigate food systems can inform targeted interventions aimed at fostering equitable access.

6. Linking protection of geographical indications to the environment: Evidence from the European Union olive-oil sector[14]

Geographical indications (GIs) serve as a vital tool for protecting the quality and distinctiveness of agricultural products, particularly in the context of the European Union (EU). The olive-oil sector stands out as an exemplary case, where GIs not only contribute to economic benefits but also interact with environmental factors. This literature review synthesizes existing research findings regarding the implications of GIs on food quality, consumer preferences, and environmental sustainability in the EU olive-oil sector, while also identifying knowledge gaps and suggesting future research directions.

Research Gaps

[14] G. Belletti, A. Marescotti, J. Sanz-Cañada & H. Vakoufaris, *Linking Protection of Geographical Indications to the Environment: Evidence from the European Union Olive-Oil Sector*, 48 Land Use Pol'y 94 (2015) (Visited on: Jan. 24, 2025).

Despite the existing body of research, several knowledge gaps remain that warrant further investigation. Firstly, while consumer preferences for GIs are well-documented, the specific attributes of olive oil that influence these preferences—such as taste, health benefits, and environmental impact—require deeper exploration. Future studies could employ experimental designs to assess how these attributes interact and affect consumer behavior.

Secondly, while the environmental benefits of GIs are acknowledged, empirical evidence linking specific GI protections to measurable environmental outcomes in olive oil production is limited. Research that quantitatively assesses the impact of GIs on biodiversity and ecosystem health in olive-growing regions could provide valuable insights.

Lastly, the integration of modern technology, such as blockchain for traceability, could transform the landscape of GI protection, enhancing transparency and consumer trust. Investigating the implications of such technologies for the olive oil sector could offer pathways for innovation in GI labeling and environmental sustainability.

7. Protecting Food Cultural Biodiversity: From Theory to Practice. Challenging the Geographical Indications and the Slow Food Models[15]

Food cultural biodiversity encompasses the variety of food systems and practices that reflect the cultural, social, and ecological contexts in which they exist. This literature review explores the theoretical frameworks and practical implications surrounding the protection of food cultural biodiversity, specifically in relation to Geographical Indications (GIs) and the Slow Food movement.

Research Gaps

While much literature emphasizes the legal and economic dimensions of GIs there is limited research exploring their combined impact on sustaining local food practices, enhancing community resilience, and addressing challenges posed by

[15] M. Mariani, F. Casabianca, C. Cerdan & I. Peri, *Protecting Food Cultural Biodiversity: From Theory to Practice. Challenging the Geographical Indications and the Slow Food Models* (2021) (Visited on: Jan. 27, 2025)

globalization and industrial agriculture. Furthermore, there is a paucity of studies analyzing how marginalized and indigenous communities engage with these mechanisms to protect and revitalize their food heritage, especially in regions undergoing rapid environmental and cultural change.

8. Geographical Indications and Strategies for Sustainable Development[16]

Geographical indications (GIs) serve as a critical intersection between the preservation of local culture and the promotion of sustainable economic development. The complexity of the relationship between GI protection and sustainable development is influenced by various factors, including legislative structures, territorial contexts, and market dynamics. This literature review synthesizes current research findings on the impact of GIs on sustainability, highlighting knowledge gaps and suggesting future research directions.

Research Gaps

Despite growing recognition of Geographical Indications (GIs) as tools for preserving local culture and promoting sustainable economic development, there remains a notable research gap in understanding how the interplay of legislative frameworks, territorial specificities, and market forces shapes the actual sustainability outcomes of GI protection.

9. Posey, D. A. (1996)[17]

Explored the intersection of intellectual property (IP) rights and indigenous knowledge systems, underlining the growing significance of mechanisms like Geographical Indications (GIs) in preserving cultural heritage. The literature acknowledges that GIs serve as more than economic tools—they are also protective frameworks for safeguarding traditional ecological knowledge and culturally

[16] A.S. Santos, C.F. Jung & A.H. Thaines, *Geographical Indications: Strategies for Sustainable Development*, Concilium (2023) (Visited on: Jan. 27, 2025).
[17] D.A. Posey, *Traditional Resource Rights: International Instruments for Protection and Compensation for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* (IUCN 1996) (Visited on Jan. 27, 2025).

embedded practices. In this context, researchers emphasize that GIs play a vital role in recognizing and preserving intangible cultural expressions that have evolved over generations within specific communities.

Furthermore, these studies highlight the ethical complexities that arise when cultural identity is commodified through intellectual property regimes. While GIs can offer financial incentives and enhance market visibility for indigenous communities, they also risk reducing rich, living traditions to static commercial assets. This commodification raises questions of consent, benefit-sharing, and cultural authenticity. Overall, the literature supports the argument that GIs must be designed and implemented with careful consideration of social justice, community empowerment, and long-term sustainability.

Research Gaps

The studies lacks on how these communities participate in decision-making, consent mechanisms, and benefit-sharing arrangements within GI frameworks. Moreover, there is limited critical examination of how GIs impact the evolving nature of intangible cultural heritage without freezing or misrepresenting it.

10. Rangnekar, D. (2004)[18]

Geographical Indications (GIs) in India and other developing countries often point to the structural limitations within existing GI protection systems. The literature identifies a persistent gap between the legal recognition of GIs and the practical realization of their intended benefits. While many developing nations, including India, have successfully implemented GI registration regimes in line with TRIPS obligations, post-registration support mechanisms—such as marketing, enforcement, and producer capacity-building—remain underdeveloped.

Researchers argue that the predominant policy focus has been on the procedural act of registration rather than on ensuring that GI holders, particularly small-scale and marginalized producers, gain meaningful economic or social advantage. As a result,

[18] Dwijen Rangnekar, *The Socio-Economics of Geographical Indications: A Review of Empirical Evidence from Europe*, UNCTAD/ICTSD (2016). (Visited on:Jan. 27, 2025).

GIs risk becoming symbolic designations with limited real-world impact unless coupled with sustained institutional support, enforcement mechanisms, and community engagement. This critique highlights the need for a more integrated approach to GI governance that prioritizes outcomes over formality.

Research Gaps

There is a critical research gap persists in examining the effectiveness of post-registration support systems and their role in translating legal recognition into tangible benefits for producers. Current literature largely overlooks the operational challenges faced by small-scale and marginalized GI holders in accessing markets, enforcing rights, and building organizational capacities.

11. Narayanan, P. (2005)[19]

The evolution of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, marks a significant legal development in India's intellectual property landscape. In examining this legislation note its foundational objective: to provide a sui generis system aligned with the TRIPS Agreement, aimed at safeguarding products that derive value from their geographical origin. The Act has successfully laid out a procedural framework for the registration of GIs, offering legal recognition to a wide array of indigenous and regional products.

However, critical analyses in the literature emphasize that the Indian GI Act, while robust in its registration procedures, falls short in providing post-registration support. There is limited provision for capacity-building, producer empowerment, or marketing assistance. Additionally, the absence of a coordinated enforcement mechanism hinders the law's effectiveness in curbing misuse and ensuring that the socio-economic benefits of GIs reach local communities. Thus, argued for a more holistic legal framework that goes beyond formal recognition to include post-registration protection, capacity development, and equitable benefit-sharing.

[19] P. Narayanan, *Intellectual Property Law* (3rd ed. 2005) (Visited on: Jan. 28, 2025)

Research Gaps

There remains a significant research gap in evaluating how effectively the Act addresses post-registration challenges such as enforcement, capacity-building, and equitable benefit distribution.

12. Bramley, C., Biénabe, E., & Kirsten, J. (2009)[20]

While examining the economic dimensions of Geographical Indications (GIs) emphasize their potential as tools for rural development and value creation in local economies. The literature outlines the rationale behind GIs as market-based instruments that protect product reputation, encourage quality production, and provide rural producers with a competitive edge by leveraging regional identity. However, the realization of these benefits is not automatic. Researchers consistently highlight that the positive economic impact of GIs is highly contingent upon the strength of institutional frameworks, the degree of producer organization, and the level of consumer awareness. Without robust institutions to manage the GI system, collective producer action to maintain standards, and informed consumers willing to pay a premium, the developmental potential of GIs remains limited. These findings underline the importance of complementary socio-economic and institutional support mechanisms for GIs to function as effective drivers of rural empowerment.

Research Gaps

There is a notable research gap in understanding how varying institutional capacities, producer organization models, and consumer behavior interact to influence the actual economic outcomes of GI schemes. there is limited empirical research on how smallholder producers in different regions mobilize collective action and navigate market challenges, as well as how consumer education and perception evolve over time to support GI products.

[20] C. Bramley, E. Biénabe & J. Kirsten, The Economics of Geographical Indications: Towards a Conceptual Framework for Geographical Indication Research in Developing Countries, in *The Geography of Small Firms* 109–125 (W. D. Ilbery , Routledge 2019) (Visited on: Jan. 28, 2025).

13. Das, K. (2010)[21]

Recent literature explores the role of Geographical Indications (GIs) as a potential tool for empowering rural producers in India by offering legal recognition to their unique traditional products. The promise of GIs lies in their ability to enhance market access, increase product value, and support rural livelihoods by formally acknowledging the link between products and their geographical origin.

However, implementation challenges significantly limit the realization of these benefits. Scholars point out that despite the formal legal framework, there remains a significant gap in benefit-sharing mechanisms, with the economic advantages often failing to reach grassroots producers. Moreover, there is widespread inadequacy in awareness and understanding of GI systems among rural stakeholders. This lack of knowledge hampers their ability to fully utilize GI protection and participate effectively in the value chain. The literature thus underscores the need for greater institutional support, awareness programs, and participatory governance structures to ensure GIs serve as inclusive development tools.

Research Gaps

The research gap exists in understanding the underlying factors that hinder effective benefit-sharing and grassroots participation post-registration. While legal frameworks provide formal recognition, there is insufficient empirical analysis on how institutional weaknesses, information asymmetries, and limited capacity among rural stakeholders affect their ability to engage with and benefit from GI systems.

14. Menapace, L., & Moschini, G. (2011)[22]

A critical stream of literature examines the distributional consequences of Geographical Indications (GIs), cautioning against overly optimistic assumptions

[21] K. Das, *Prospects and Challenges of Geographical Indications in India*, 13 J. World Intellectual Proerty, 148 (2010), (visited on: Jan. 28, 2025).
[22] L. Menapace & G. Moschini, *Quality Certification by Geographical Indications, Trademarks and Firm Reputation*, 39 Eur. Rev. Agric. Econ. 539 (2017), (visited on: Jan. 28, 2025).

regarding their impact. While GIs are frequently portrayed as tools for equitable rural development, researchers have highlighted that the benefits are not uniformly distributed among stakeholders. Specifically, studies show that larger, more resource-rich producers often capture a disproportionate share of the economic gains, while small and marginalized producers may struggle to compete due to limited market access, organizational capacity, or technical knowledge.

This body of work warns against romanticizing GIs as a panacea for rural poverty, emphasizing that without deliberate and inclusive policy design, GIs risk reinforcing existing socio-economic hierarchies. The literature calls for careful governance, equity-focused interventions, and stronger producer cooperatives to ensure that GIs promote broad-based development rather than contribute to new forms of exclusion.

Research Gaps

There remains a significant research gap in systematically identifying the specific mechanisms and contextual factors that enable or hinder equitable benefit-sharing among diverse producer groups. Empirical studies focusing on the lived experiences of small-scale and marginalized producers within different GI frameworks are limited, particularly in understanding how power dynamics, access to resources, and governance structures shape outcomes.

15. Gangjee, D. S. (2012)[23]

Providing a comprehensive overview of Geographical Indication (GI) law across both international and Indian contexts emphasize the evolving nature of legal frameworks governing traditional knowledge and product origin. A recurring critique within this body of literature targets the TRIPS Agreement, which, while mandating GI protection, offers limited post-registration guidance, leaving critical

[23] D.S. Gangjee, *Relocating the Law of Geographical Indications* (Cambridge Univ. Press 2012) (Visited on: Jan. 30, 2025).

implementation challenges unaddressed.

It further argues that current GI regimes often overlook community interests and cultural nuances, favouring a more legalistic or market-driven approach. As a response, the literature advocates for community-centric GI systems—those that actively involve local stakeholders and integrate cultural, economic, and legal dimensions to ensure more equitable and sustainable outcomes. These approaches are especially crucial for developing countries, where GIs are closely linked to indigenous identity, rural livelihoods, and traditional ecological knowledge.

Research Gaps

A notable research gap persists in exploring how community-centric GI models can be effectively designed and operationalized to address the shortcomings of current regimes. Specifically, there is limited research on participatory approaches that genuinely incorporate local stakeholders' voices, cultural values, and socio-economic realities in the governance of GIs.

16. Rao, C. H. H. (2013)[24]

Studies analyzing the economic impact of Geographical Indication (GI) status in rural India reveal a significant disconnect between legal recognition and actual economic outcomes. While GI registration is often anticipated to enhance rural livelihoods by adding market value and visibility to local products, empirical findings indicate that most GIs have failed to generate the expected income for producers.

This shortfall is largely attributed to weak post-registration governance, including insufficient marketing infrastructure, lack of institutional support, and inadequate producer awareness. These limitations underscore the need for holistic policy frameworks that go beyond legal formalities and focus on capacity-building, value chain development, and producer empowerment to translate GI recognition into

[24] C.H.H. Rao, *Agricultural Growth, Rural Poverty and Environmental Degradation in India* (Oxford Univ. Press 2013) (Visited on: Jan. 30, 2025).

tangible socio-economic benefits.

Research Gaps

A significant research gap remains in comprehensively understanding how specific post-registration governance failures—such as marketing deficits, institutional weaknesses, and producer knowledge gaps—interact to undermine GI benefits. There is limited in-depth, region-specific empirical research that traces the entire value chain from registration to market outcomes, particularly focusing on smallholder producers' experiences and challenges.

17. Banerjee, A. (2016)[25]

Scholarship increasingly frames Geographical Indications (GIs) as important tools for the preservation of India's intangible cultural heritage, particularly in the context of traditional crafts, practices, and local knowledge systems. These studies emphasize that beyond their economic function, GIs serve as legal instruments that recognize and validate community-based identities and cultural expressions.

However, the literature also cautions that the effectiveness of GIs in safeguarding heritage depends on participatory governance mechanisms. It highlights the need for community involvement in registration, management, and benefit-sharing processes to ensure that GIs do not merely commodify culture but instead promote community ownership and control over traditional knowledge. This perspective aligns GI governance with broader goals of cultural sustainability and social equity.

Research Gaps

There remains a research gap in empirically examining how participatory governance models function in practice to facilitate genuine community ownership and control. Few studies provide detailed insights into the processes through which local communities engage in GI registration, management, and benefit-sharing, or

[25] A. Banerjee, *Geographical Indications and Cultural Heritage in India*, 7 Indian J. Intell. Prop. L. 24 (2016). (Visited on: Jan. 30, 2025).

how power dynamics and social hierarchies influence these participatory mechanisms.

18. Chaturvedi, S. (2019)[26]

Recent scholarship highlights significant post-registration challenges in the governance of Geographical Indications (GIs) in India. A major concern is the lack of enforcement mechanisms to protect registered GIs from misuse and infringement, which undermines their effectiveness. In addition, low consumer awareness limits the market potential and cultural recognition of GI-tagged products, especially in rural and regional markets.

The literature advocates for the establishment of state-level regulatory bodies dedicated to monitoring compliance, promoting awareness, and ensuring that registered GIs are actively protected and promoted. These decentralized institutions are seen as essential to bridging the gap between legal recognition and tangible socio-economic benefits, particularly for marginalized producer communities.

Research Gaps

Despite recognition of enforcement and awareness challenges in the post-registration governance of Geographical Indications (GIs) in India, a significant research gap exists in evaluating the design, functioning, and impact of state-level regulatory bodies proposed to address these issues. there is a lack of comparative analysis on best practices and barriers faced by such bodies across different regions.

19. Singh, V., & Joshi, R. (2020)[27]

A focused case study on Aipan and Ringal, two GI-tagged products from Uttarakhand, reveals critical post-registration shortcomings in institutional support for local artisans. Despite the formal recognition through Geographical Indications, local producers—predominantly women—continue to face structural challenges,

[26] S. Chaturvedi, *Strengthening GI Governance in India: Post-Registration Challenges and Solutions*, 54(28) Econ. & Pol. Wkly. 59 (2019). (Visited on: Jan. 30, 2025).
[27] V. Singh & R. Joshi, *Cultural Geography of GI Products in Uttarakhand: Aipan and Ringal Crafts*, 3(1) Himalayan J. Reg'l Stud. 45 (2020). (Visited on: Jan. 30, 2025).

including insufficient access to markets, lack of promotional mechanisms, and weak linkages with state support systems.

The study further underscores the interplay of traditional knowledge, gender roles, and sustainable practices. It emphasizes that women artisans, who are the primary custodians of these crafts, are rarely included in decision-making processes post-GI registration. This exclusion undermines both the economic potential and the cultural integrity of GI-tagged products. The findings advocate for more inclusive, gender-sensitive, and sustainability-focused policies to support traditional artisans in the post-GI phase.

Research Gaps

limited attention has been given to designing and evaluating inclusive governance models that effectively integrate gender sensitivity and sustainability principles.

20. Chatterjee, A. (2021)[28]

This study examines the post-registration scenario of Geographical Indications (GIs) in India, drawing upon empirical field data to highlight the persistent challenges faced by artisans and small-scale producers. While GI registration is designed to confer market advantages and cultural recognition, the research shows that benefits often fail to trickle down to local stakeholders due to bureaucratic hurdles, inadequate awareness, and weak enforcement mechanisms.

The analysis emphasizes the disconnect between registration and realization of benefits, particularly among rural producers with limited legal and institutional literacy. As a corrective, the study proposes institutional reforms—such as decentralized GI governance, enhanced producer training, and stronger post-registration monitoring—to ensure that GI protection translates into real socio-economic empowerment for the communities involved.

[28] A. Chatterjee, *Beyond Registration: Rethinking the Post-GI Ecosystem in India*, 26(1) J. Intell. Prop. Rts. 14 (2021). (Visited on: Jan. 30, 2025).

Research Gaps

A notable research gap persists in systematically evaluating the effectiveness of proposed institutional reforms—such as decentralized governance, producer training, and monitoring in diverse regional and product contexts. There is research tracking how these reforms impact the empowerment of rural artisans and small-scale producers over time, particularly considering variations in legal literacy, socio-economic conditions, and administrative capacities.

21. Kumar, R. (2022)[29]

This work critically analyzes the implementation of Geographical Indications (GIs) in Northeast India, with significant relevance to other Himalayan regions like Uttarakhand. The study highlights systemic policy-level inertia as a major barrier to the effective realization of GI benefits. Despite the cultural richness and product uniqueness of these regions, state institutions have often failed to operationalize community-centric benefit-sharing mechanisms, leaving traditional producers marginalized.

The review underscores the importance of localized governance frameworks and community participation to ensure that GI protections move beyond symbolic recognition to tangible socio-economic outcomes. The findings call for revised policy approaches that incorporate grassroots capacity-building, awareness generation, and mechanisms to ensure equitable benefit distribution among all stakeholders.

Research Gaps

There is limited evidence on best practices for designing and implementing grassroots capacity-building and awareness programs that are culturally sensitive

[29] R. Kumar, Challenges in Implementation of GI Laws in Tribal Belts of India, 13(2) Indian Journal of Law and Society,79, 79–101 (2022) (Visited on: Jan. 30, 2025).

and region-specific. Furthermore, the mechanisms that ensure equitable benefit distribution among diverse stakeholders in these contexts remain underexplored.

22. Singh, M., Rawat, J. S., Parihar, D. S., & Deepak. (2023)[30]

The study provides an analytical overview of the Geographical Indication (GI) landscape in Uttarakhand, revealing that by 2023, a total of eight products—comprising both agricultural goods and handicrafts—had secured GI registration. Despite these milestones, the research points to a significant gap in awareness among local producers about the potential legal, cultural, and economic benefits that GI status can offer.

It emphasizes that mere registration is insufficient without complementary efforts such as state-supported awareness programs, capacity-building initiatives, and market facilitation strategies. The findings suggest that government-led interventions are crucial to translating GI recognition into tangible developmental gains for rural communities, especially in traditionally rich but economically vulnerable regions like Uttarakhand.

Research Gaps

A notable research gap exists in understanding the most effective design and implementation of awareness programs, capacity-building efforts, and market facilitation strategies tailored to the region's unique socio-cultural and economic context. There is limited evidence on how these complementary interventions influence local producers' ability to leverage GI status for legal protection, cultural preservation, and economic upliftment.

[30] M. Singh, J.S. Rawat, D.S. Parihar & Deepak, *Current Scenario of Geographical Indications (GIs) in Uttarakhand State, India*, 11(3) EPRA International Journal of Agriculture and Rural Economic Research ,13–18 (2023), Visited On: Feb. 3, 2025).

23. Singh, M., Parihar, D. S., Rafi, S., & Deepak. (2024)[31]

The study offers a comprehensive overview of GI-tagged products in Uttarakhand, reporting that 26 products had achieved GI registration as of the latest count. These span across agriculture, handicrafts, foodstuffs, and manufactured goods, reflecting the diverse cultural and ecological heritage of the region. The analysis underscores the significant economic potential of GIs to revitalize local economies, particularly in rural and mountainous areas.

Importantly, the research highlights the crucial role of government support—both in the initial registration process and in post-registration promotion and enforcement—to ensure that the benefits of GI recognition are realized at the grassroots level. The findings advocate for proactive state involvement in creating awareness, building institutional capacity, and enabling market access for producers of GI-certified goods.

Research Gaps

There is limited research assessing how government interventions such as awareness campaigns, capacity-building programs, and enforcement mechanisms, actually translate into improved livelihoods and market outcomes for rural producers, particularly in remote mountainous regions. Additionally, the dynamics of producer engagement, institutional coordination, and challenges faced in scaling these initiatives are underexplored.

24. Belletti,G.(1999)[32]

Belletti (1999) explores the relationship between origin-labelled products, their reputations, and firm heterogeneity, specifically in the context of Geographical Indications (GIs). He emphasizes that GIs play a crucial role in enhancing the reputation of products by associating them with distinct location-specific qualities.

[31] M. Singh, D.S. Parihar, S. Rafi & Deepak, Geographical Indication (GI) Tag and Uttarakhand State: An Overview, 13 *Int'l J. Current Advanced Res.* 3315, 3315–3320 (2024), (Visited on: Feb. 3, 2025).

[32] G. Belletti, *Origin Labelled Products, Reputation and Heterogeneity of Firms*, in *The Socio-Economics of Origin-Labelled Products in Agro-Food Supply Chains: Spatial, Institutional and Co-ordination Aspects* 239–59, European Association Agriculture Economy 2000), (Visited On: Feb. 5, 2025)

However, the ability of firms to leverage these GIs varies significantly, with some firms benefiting more than others due to differences in resources, capabilities, and market positioning. Belletti suggests that while protection mechanisms for GIs help in maintaining the quality of products, these systems alone are not sufficient. Local producers, especially smaller ones, need additional support to ensure they can equally benefit from the economic opportunities that GIs offer. This highlights the importance of institutional frameworks and capacity-building initiatives to help all producers harness the full potential of their GI-tagged products. Therefore, a balanced approach is necessary, one that not only protects the quality and reputation of GI products but also ensures that the benefits are widely distributed among local producers**.**

Research Gaps

A research gap concerning how institutional support and capacity-building can be effectively tailored to assist smaller, less-resourced producers in overcoming these disparities. There is limited investigation into which specific mechanisms or governance models best promote equitable participation and benefit-sharing among heterogeneous producer groups within GI systems.

25. Escudero,S.(2001)[33]

Escudero (2001) critically examines the challenges that developing countries encounter in protecting Geographical Indications (GIs) internationally. The study focuses on the complexities of adhering to the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, particularly how the compliance mechanisms often favour developed countries, which already have established systems for GI protection. Escudero argues that the current framework disproportionately benefits the Global North, leaving producers in developing countries with limited access to the potential economic benefits of GI protection. The paper calls for reforms to make the international GI protection system more inclusive and accessible for producers in the Global South, emphasizing the need for adjustments that recognize the specific challenges and needs of developing countries. Escudero's analysis

[33] S. Escudero, *International Protection of Geographical Indications and Developing Countries*, T.R.A.D.E. Working Paper No. 10 (South Centre 2001), (Visited on: Feb. 7, 2025)

underscores the importance of creating equitable protection mechanisms that not only preserve cultural heritage but also foster economic development in the Global South.

Research Gaps

There is limited research in exploring practical pathways and policy reforms that can make the system more accessible and beneficial for producers in developing nations. Additionally, the nuanced challenges faced by diverse developing countries in navigating international GI protections such as administrative capacity, legal infrastructure, and market integration remain underexplored.

26. Rangnekar, D. (2003)[34]

Rangnekar (2003) analyzes the ongoing debate within the TRIPS Council regarding the extension of strong Geographical Indication (GI) protection under Article 23 to include products beyond wines and spirits. He emphasizes the economic and cultural advantages that broader GI coverage could offer, particularly for non-European producers, who would benefit from the enhanced protection of their indigenous products. Rangnekar argues that the current TRIPS framework disproportionately favors European producers, who have long-established GI systems for products like wines and cheeses, while developing countries remain disadvantaged. He highlights the cultural significance of extending GI protection to a wider range of products, noting that such a move would not only preserve traditional knowledge and practices but also bolster the economic standing of producers in the Global South. Rangnekar suggests that the extension of GI protection is crucial for ensuring a fairer global trade system and for promoting cultural diversity and sustainable economic development in developing countries.

Research Gaps

One key gap is the lack of studies in examining the actual impact of such an extension on producers in developing countries—particularly in terms of trade

[34] D. Rangnekar, *Geographical Indications: A Review of Proposals at the TRIPS Council: Extending Article 23 to Products Other Than Wines and Spirits*, ICTSD Issue Paper No. 4 (June 2003), (Visited on: Feb. 7, 2025)

performance, rural livelihoods, and value chain development. Additionally, there is insufficient analysis of the institutional and legal readiness of these countries to implement and enforce stronger GI protection across diverse product categories.

27. Das, K. (2009)[35]

Das (2009) examines the socio-economic implications of Geographical Indication (GI) protection in India, particularly in rural communities. He finds that while GI registration has the potential to foster rural development by enhancing market access and providing legal protection, the actual socio-economic benefits are contingent upon effective marketing, legal enforcement, and community awareness. Das argues that without robust post-registration support mechanisms, such as capacity-building, enforcement of GI rights, and consumer education, the expected economic and social outcomes from GI protection are unlikely to be fully realized. He emphasizes the need for a more comprehensive approach to GI implementation that goes beyond mere registration, ensuring that rural producers can access the benefits of their GI status in a sustainable and equitable manner.

Research Gaps

Notably, there is a lack of studies on socio-economic impacts of GI registration on rural communities, including income growth, employment generation, and empowerment of marginalized groups such as women and indigenous artisans. Additionally, the role of institutional frameworks, including local governance bodies and producer organizations, in facilitating or hindering the realization of GI benefits has not been sufficiently explored.

28. Önal, H. (2017)[36]

Önal (2017) critiques the absence of Geographical Indications (GIs) in Turkish geography education, highlighting its significance for both cultural and economic geography. He argues that the omission of GIs in the educational curriculum limits

[35] K. Das, *Socio-Economic Implications of Protecting Geographical Indication in India* (Ctr. for WTO Stud. 2009). (visited Feb. 12, 2025).
[36] H. Önal, *Geography curriculum in Turkey: Geographical indications*. Review of International Geographical Education Online, *7*(2), 45-60. (2017). (Visited on: 12 Feb, 2025).

students' understanding of the role that GIs play in preserving local heritage and boosting regional economies. Önal recommends incorporating GI education into the curriculum to help future generations appreciate the value of local products, recognize their economic potential, and foster a sense of responsibility in protecting cultural heritage. He suggests that such an integration would not only enhance awareness of GIs but also contribute to the broader goal of safeguarding intangible cultural assets in Turkey.

Research Gaps

There is limited research on how curriculum development processes in Turkey and similar countries either facilitate or hinder the integration of GI-related content.

29. Yulistari Sitepu, F. (2018)[37]

Yulistari (2018) examines the role of legal protection for Geographical Indications (GIs) in enhancing agricultural development by enabling local producers to access premium markets for their products. She emphasizes that GIs can significantly improve the economic prospects of agricultural communities by establishing a strong reputation for quality linked to geographic origin. However, Yulistari also highlights critical challenges in developing countries, such as Indonesia, where poor enforcement of GI regulations and the lack of effective producer organization undermine the potential benefits. She argues that, while GIs hold promise for agricultural development, their success is contingent upon robust legal frameworks, effective enforcement, and well-organized local producers.

Research Gaps

Post-registration monitoring and integration of GIs into broader agricultural policy frameworks are under-studied, leaving questions about long-term sustainability and impact unaddressed. The interaction between formal GI laws and local governance

[37] F. Yulistari Sitepu, *The Potential of Geographical Indications and Its Legal Protection*, 26 Web Conf. 1, 1–5 (2018). (visited Feb. 12, 2025).

or customary institutions remains underexplored, particularly in rural and indigenous settings.

4. RESEARCH GAP

The literature currently available on Geographical Indications (GIs) in India, especially as they relate to Uttarakhand, identifies a number of important research gaps that demand careful scholarly investigation. The legislative framework for GI registration has been publicized a lot. The lack of attention to the post-registration stage is noticeable though. This especially involves enforcement benefit-sharing, and long-term sustainability, which should not be overlooked.

In Uttarakhand a deficiency exists in efficient legal enforcement. This deficiency; when GI-tagged items do not have enough institutional support. Abuse has also been insufficiently addressed by the legal procedures. There is an another problem that the Empirical research is not studied in detail. This research needs to be about the economic impact of GI protection, it is important. Does GI protection improve market access for farmers and craftspeople? Does it help generate income? Can it improve the means of survival? All important questions to address, are they not? Such studies need to account for this when they see if GI protection enhances traditional knowledge.

Community involvement is sadly very low. All indications show capacity-building programs must be developed. There needs to be more of them. Furthermore insight lacks into benefit distribution for groups of varying backgrounds; in most instances it connects the producers to their over-represented counterparts. Few comparative studies from intra and extra-India makes assessing regional best practices a harder challenge for evaluators to face; especially, compared to the data from other regions that have the status that they may enjoy.

There are, however, a few areas where the use of digital technologies, e-commerce, and branding could be potential in promoting and gaining commerciality for GI-certified goods produced in the regions, but these are still developing and not widely known. The omissions point to the necessity of an interdisciplinary approach that merges law, economy, and culture.

5. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the effectiveness and implementation of the GI Act, 1999, focusing on the post-registration legal protections in Uttarakhand.
2. To analyze the economic outcomes of GI registration for producers, including changes in income, market access, and value addition.
3. To examine the cultural meanings of GI products and the role of community participation in preserving traditional knowledge.
4. To identify the overlaps and gaps in law, market structures, and community agency in GI governance.
5. To recommend a comprehensive and inclusive model for managing GIs that balances legal protections, economic benefits, and cultural sustainability.

6. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How effectively is the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 implemented in Uttarakhand after registration?
2. To what extent does GI registration contribute to the economic empowerment of local producers?
3. How are cultural identities, traditional practices, and community knowledge systems influenced by GI recognition?
4. What are the challenges in aligning legal protections, market systems, and cultural preservation in the GI ecosystem?
5. How can a people-centered, sustainable GI framework be developed to protect heritage while promoting socio-economic inclusion?

7. HYPOTHESIS

1. The post-registration legal and Institutional framework for Geographical Indications of Goods in Uttarakhand is inadequate and insufficient to effectively protect cultural Heritage and to deliver equitable socio-economic benefits to local communities.

2. The effectiveness of GI governance in Uttarakhand is significantly influenced by the level of community participation, legal awareness, and access to market-support institutions, which collectively determine the socio-economic and cultural outcomes of GI registration.

8. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research employs a mixed method approach. Doctrinal as well as empirical study to understand the real issues and challenges faced by the producers or manufacturers.

The researcher has alluded the primary source of information, for example, unique content from the International Agreements and Conventions, similar to TRIPS Agreement, WTO archives, GI ACT 1999 Act and so forth and the secondary sources of information for leading the concentrate for instance books, journals, papers and article

The research will involve a combination of data sources, including:

- Interviews with producers, consumers, government officials, and industry experts.
- Analysis of existing literature, policy documents, and legal frameworks related to GIs.
- Quantitative data collection through surveys and market analysis to assess the economic impacts of GIs.
- Case studies of specific GIs in deprived societies to explore their unique challenges and success factors.

The data collected will be analyzed using a variety of methods, including thematic analysis, statistical analysis, and comparative case study analysis. This will allow for the identification of key trends, patterns, and insights, leading to evidence-based recommendations for policy and practice.

The research will adopt a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis techniques.

9. EXPECTED OUTCOME

The expected outcome of this research is a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted impact of Geographical Indication (GI) registration in Uttarakhand, particularly in the post-registration phase. The study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the current legal framework in protecting GIs from misuse, counterfeiting, and unauthorized commercial exploitation. It is anticipated that the research will identify key legislative and administrative gaps that hinder enforcement and provide legal recommendations for strengthening the protection of registered GIs, especially for small-scale producers and cooperatives. Economically, the study expects to reveal the extent to which GI registration has improved market access, income levels, and overall economic well-being among rural producers, while also highlighting structural limitations such as inadequate infrastructure, weak branding, and insufficient state support that may undermine these benefits. On a cultural level, the research intends to demonstrate how GI registration contributes to the preservation and revitalization of intangible heritage, traditional knowledge systems, and artisanal craftsmanship, fostering a sense of cultural identity and continuity within local communities. The study will further explore the social dimensions of GIs, with a specific focus on inclusivity and equity, assessing the participation and benefit-sharing mechanisms available to women, tribal groups, and other marginalized sections of society. By integrating legal analysis, socio-economic evaluation, and anthropological insights, the research aims to produce a holistic framework for post-registration GI governance that promotes sustainable development, cultural preservation, and equitable growth. Finally, it is expected that the findings will lead to concrete policy recommendations tailored to the unique context of Uttarakhand, with potential applicability to other states in India and similar regions globally.

10. Research Design

The research design for this study has been developed to investigate the multifaceted legal, economic, and cultural dimensions of Geographical Indications (GIs) in the state of Uttarakhand, with particular emphasis on the post-registration process and its socio-economic impact on local communities. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the research—spanning law, economics, and cultural anthropology—a mixed-method approach has been adopted to facilitate a comprehensive understanding. This design allows for the integration of doctrinal legal analysis with empirical field-based inquiry, enabling the study to capture both normative legal frameworks and ground realities experienced by GI stakeholders. The chosen design is suitable for exploring how GIs function beyond registration, the effectiveness of legal protections, and how cultural heritage and livelihoods are affected within the socio-economic fabric of the region.

11. CHAPTERIZATION

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1.Background and context of the study
1.2.Statement of the problem
1.3.Research objectives and questions
1.4.Hypotheses
1.5.Scope and significance of the study
1.6.Methodology overview
1.7.Structure of the thesis

Chapter 2: Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

2.1.Concept of Geographical Indications (GIs)
2.2.Intellectual Property Rights and GIs: Interlinkages
2.3.Legal theories of property, culture, and development
2.4.Theoretical framework from economics and cultural anthropology
2.5.Understanding traditional knowledge and heritage in the GI context

Chapter 3: Legal Framework Governing Geographical Indications

3.1.International legal instruments: TRIPS Agreement, WIPO conventions
3.2.Indian legal framework:
3.3.The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
    3.3.1. Rules and regulations under the Act
    3.3.2. Judicial interpretations and case law analysis
3.4.Comparative legal overview with other jurisdictions (optional)

Chapter 4: Post- Registration Dynamics of GIs in Uttarakhand

4.1.Overview of GI-registered products in Uttarakhand
4.2.Institutional support mechanisms: GI user groups, government schemes
4.3.Challenges in enforcement and protection post-registration
4.4.Branding, marketing, and quality control
4.5.Analysis of stakeholder engagement and awareness

Chapter 5: Socio- Economic Impact of GIs on Local Communities

5.1.Economic effects: income generation, employment, and rural development
5.2.Social dimensions: inclusion of women, tribal and marginalized groups
5.3.Cultural impact: preservation of traditional knowledge and practices
5.4.Impact of GI Commercialization on Cultural Integrity
5.5.Case studies of select GI products in Uttarakhand
5.6.Analysis of empirical findings (based on fieldwork and survey data)
5.7. Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable GI Model
5.7.1. Synthesis of Legal, Economic, and Cultural Insights
5.7.2. Comparative Insights from Other States/Countries
5.7.3. Proposing a People-Centered, Sustainable GI Governance Model

Chapter 6: Data Analysis and Synthesis

6.1.Integrated analysis of legal, economic, and socio-cultural findings

6.2.Triangulation of doctrinal and empirical results

6.3.Validation or rejection of hypotheses

6.4.Identification of key patterns and insights

6.5.Testing of Hypothesis and Analysis

Chapter 7: Conclusion and Recommendations

7.1. Summary of key findings

7.2. Contribution to the field of law, economics, and cultural heritage studies

7.3. Policy and legal reform suggestions

7.4. Recommendations for post-registration mechanisms and stakeholder involvement

7.5. Suggestions for future research

Annexures and Bibliography

- Survey/questionnaire instruments
- Interview transcripts (if needed)
- Legal documents and GI registration samples
- References (APA style)

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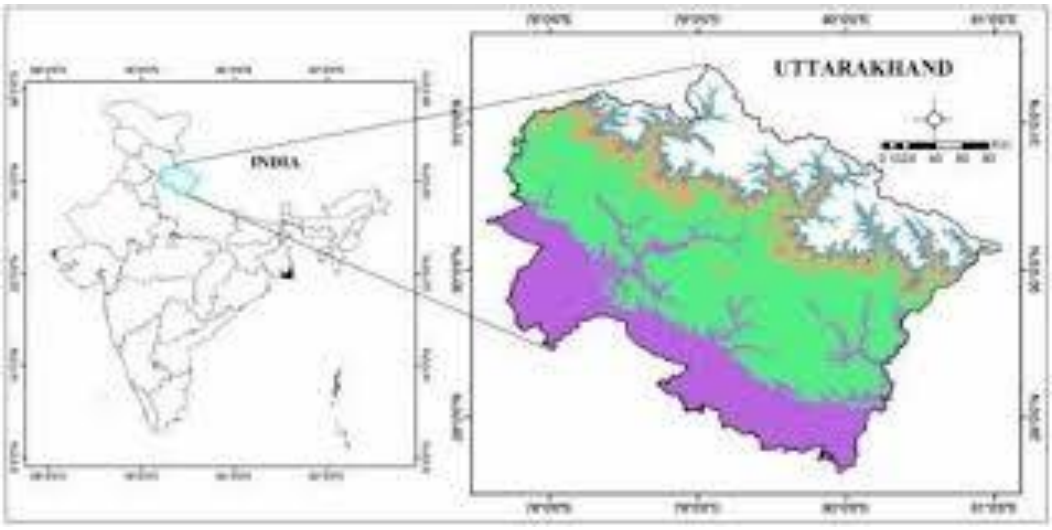
Table 1.1.

As of May 2025, Uttarakhand has a diverse array of products that have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags, encompassing agricultural produce, handicrafts, food items, and manufactured goods. Below is a table summarizing these GI-registered Products:

S. No.	Product Name	Category	District/Region	Registration Year
1	Aipan Art	Handicraft	Almora, Pithoragarh	2021
2	Ringal Craft	Handicraft	Chamoli, Pithoragarh	2021
3	Tamta Copper Craft	Handicraft	Pithoragarh	2021
4	Thulma Blanket	Handicraft	Pithoragarh	2021
5	Munsyari Rajma	Agricultural	Pithoragarh	2021
6	Kumaon Chyura Oil	Agricultural	Pithoragarh	2021
7	Mandua (Finger Millet)	Agricultural	Chamoli, Uttarkashi	2023
8	Jhangora (Barnyard Millet)	Agricultural	Chamoli, Uttarkashi	2023
9	Gahat (Horse Gram)	Agricultural	Chamoli, Uttarkashi	2023
10	Lal Chawal (Red Rice)	Agricultural	Uttarkashi	2023
11	Kala Bhat (Black Soybean)	Agricultural	Chamoli, Uttarkashi	2023
12	Almora Lakhori Mirchi	Agricultural	Almora	2023
13	Pahari Toor Dal	Agricultural	Chamoli, Almora, Tehri Garhwal	2023
14	Malta Fruit	Agricultural	Nainital	2023
15	Ramnagar Litchi	Agricultural	Nainital	2023
16	Ramgarh Peach	Agricultural	Nainital	2023
17	Buransh Juice	Foodstuff	Chamoli, Uttarkashi	2023
18	Chaulai (Ramdana)	Agricultural	Chamoli, Uttarkashi	2023
19	Bicchu Buti Fabric (Nettle)	Handicraft	Chamoli	2023
20	Likhai Wood Carving	Handicraft	Chamoli	2023
21	Nainital Mombatti (Candles)	Manufactured	Nainital	2023
22	Kumaoni Rangwali Pichhoda	Handicraft	Almora	2023
23	Chamoli Wooden Ramman Mask	Handicraft	Chamoli	2023
24	Berinag Tea	Agricultural	Pithoragarh	2023
25	Tejpat (Indian Bay Leaf)	Agricultural	Chamoli	2016
26	Bhotia Dann	Handicraft	Uttarkashi	2021

List of Picture:



1.1. Products Pictures:

A- Uttarakhand Tejpat

B- Uttarakhand Aipan

C- White Munsyari Razma

D- Uttarakhand Ringal Craft

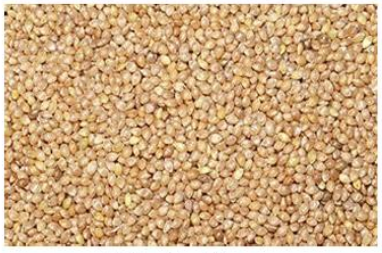
E- Uttarakhand Tamta Product

F- Uttarakhand Thulma

G- Bhotia Dann

H- Kumaon Chyura Oil.

A- Uttarakhand Chaulai (Ramdana)



B- Uttarakhand Jhangora

C- Uttarakhand Red Rice

D- Uttarakhand Mandua

E- Almora Lakhori Chili

F- Berinag Tea

G- Ramnagar-Nainital Litchi

H- Ramgarh Peach.

A- Uttarakhand Malta Fruit

B- Uttarakhand Pahari Toor Dal

C- Uttarakhand Gahat

D- Uttarakhand Kala Bhat

E- Uttarakhand Bichhu Buti

F- Kumaoni Coloured Pichhoda

G- Wooden Ramman Mask

H- Uttarakhand Likhai.

A- Uttarakhand Buransh

B- Nainital Candle

Proposed Month-wise plan of work and targets to be achieved:

S.no.	Activities	Months- Year							
		June-2025	Dec-2025	Jan- 2026	Apr-2026	Aug-2026	Oct-2026	Dec-2026	Feb- 2027
1	Thesis Proposal defense								
2	Extended Literature Review								
3	Questionnaire designing								
4	Pilot testing and refinement of questionnaire								
5	Data collection								
6	Data preparation								
7	Data analysis & Results								
8	Report writing: Chapter 1,2 & 3								
9	Report writing: Chapter 4,5,6&7…								
10	Thesis Writing, Publications and Other Requirements								
11	Thesis Submission								

*Month and Year is given just for sample only. Use your proposed month and year in which expected to complete the activity.